

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01255 170934Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /100 W

-----022383 172203Z /64

R 170845Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9720

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR PBOR CD LY GB PINS

SUBJECT: FON MIN DJERMAKOYE COMMENTS ON CHAD/LIBYA AND LIBREVILLE

1. FONMIN DJERMAKOYE RETURNED FROM LIBREVILLE, GABON, MARCH 15 WHERE HE BRIEFED OAU PRESIDENT BONGO ON RESULTS OF SEBHA (LIBYAL SUMMIT ON CHAD/LIBYA PROBLEM. DURING RECEPTION MARCH 16, HE PROJECTED OPTIMISM ABOUT OUTCOME OF MEDIATION EFFORTS BECAUSE OF LIBYAN ACQUIESCENCE. HE BELIEVES MALLOUM IS AGREEABLE BUT ADMITS THAT KAMOUGUE HAS GREAT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CURRENT COURSE OF EVENTS AND WAS DISTURBED BY WHAT HE BELIEVES WAS A KAMOUGUE DECISION (NOT CHIEF OF STATE) TO DERAIL THE NIAMEY FONMIN MEETING SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 21. DJERMAKOYE WILL ATTEND THE MARCH 21 MEETING IN SEBHA.

2. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HE REACTED STRONGLY TO THE SUGGESTION THAT GABON IS A RICH COUNTRY. RATHER, AS HE PUT IT, GABON IS A POOR, UNDERDEVELOPED, INDEBTED COUNTRY WITH GREAT RICHES. HE MADE CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE WEALTH REFLECTED IN THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURES OF LIBREVILLE, ("LIBREVILLE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN AFRICA.")

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 01255 170934Z

SUCH AS THE PALACE AND OAU STRUCTURES. MOUNKEILA AROUNA, MINISTER OF MINES, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, CHIMED IN WITH RECITATION OF MINERAL WEALTH OF GABON, THE LACK OF POPULATION PRESSURE AND AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES. IN SHORT IMPLYING ALL OF REQUISITES OF DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT DIRECTION.

3. THIS SPONTANEOUS CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF A BROTHER
FRANCOPHONE COUNTRY BY TWO PROMINENT MEMBERS OF NIGER
GOVERNMENT UNDERSCORES THE CONCENTRATED DEVELOPMENT
FOCUS OF THE GON AND LENDS EVEN GREATER EMPHASIS TO
GON'S BELATED CONCERN ABOUT IMPROVING THEIR NEGLECTED
INTERNAL SECURITY. GON IS BEGINNING TO FEAR THAT
EVEN-HANDED DIPLOMACY AND PRAGMATISM IS NOT ENOUGH TO
KEEP DETERMINED WOLVES (OR BEARS) FROM THE DOOR.JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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